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OIE Americas



## Presentation of the OIE

# *Plan*



- *Objectives*
- *Member Countries*
- *Structure*
- *International Relations*
- *Information Systems*
- *International Standards*
- *Reference Laboratories – Collaborating Centers*
- *Publications and Websites*

# OIE Objectives

## **1. TRANSPARENCY**

To ensure transparency in the global animal disease and zoonosis situation

## **2. SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION**

To collect, analyse and disseminate scientific veterinary information

## **3. INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY**

To provide expertise and encourage international solidarity in the control of animal diseases

# *Objectives*

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## **4. HEALTH STANDARDS**

Within its mandate under the WTO SPS Agreement, to safeguard world trade by publishing health standards for international trade in animals and animal products.

## **5. LEGAL FRAMEWORK**

To improve the legal framework and resources of national Veterinary Services

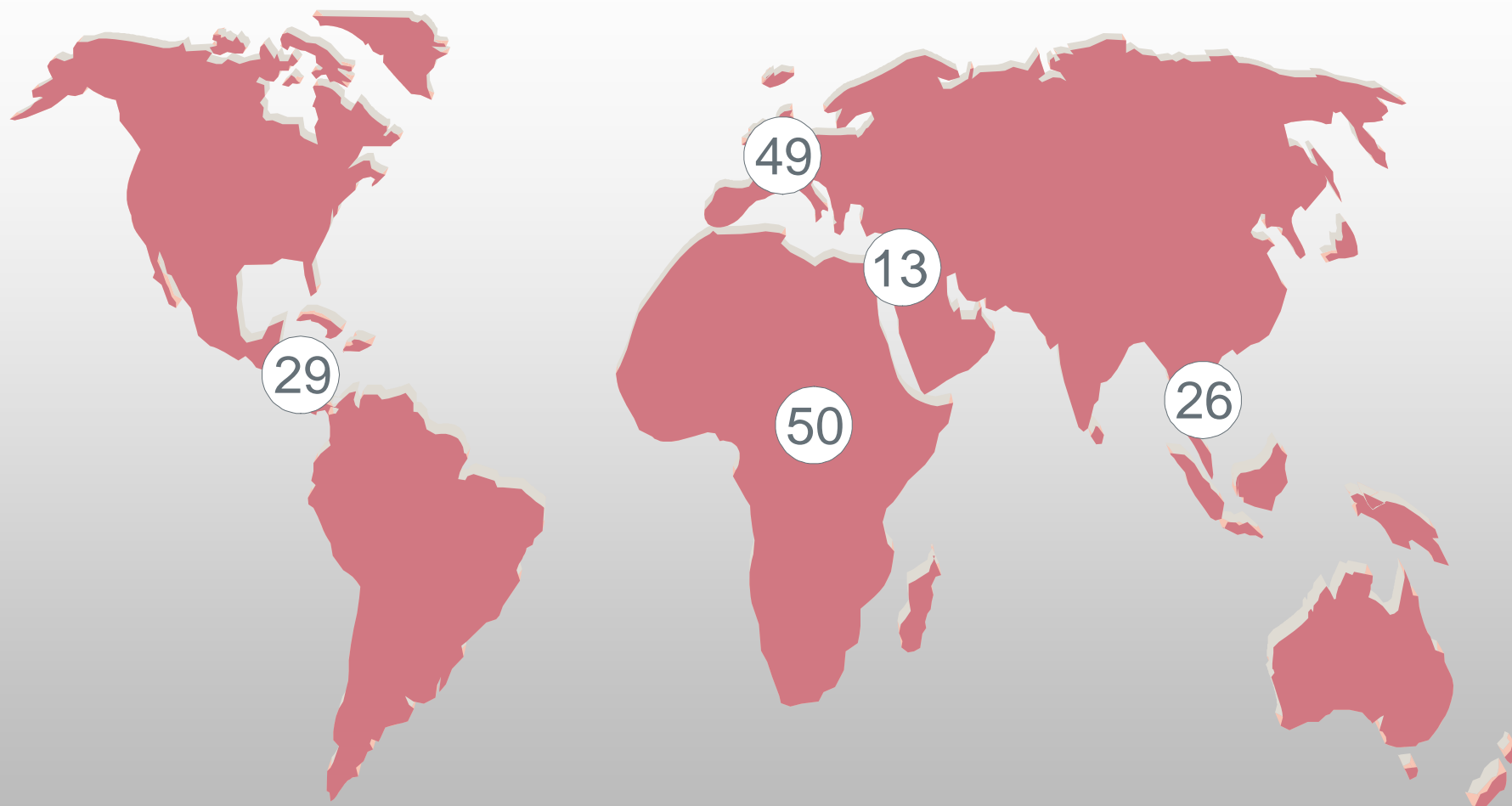
## **6. ANIMAL WELFARE**

To provide a better guarantee of the safety of food of animal origin and to promote animal welfare through a science-based approach

## **7. FOOD SAFETY**

To provide a better guarantee of the safety of food of animal origin, To promote animal welfare, through a science-based approach

# 167 Member Countries



Américas: 29 – Africa: 50 – Europa: 49 – Medio Este: 13 – Asia: 26  
Americas: 29 – Africa: 50 – Europe: 49 – Middle East: 13 – Asia: 26

# OIE Structure



**COMITÉ INTERNACIONAL**  
**Comisión Administrativa**  
**Director General**



**Comisiones Especializadas**  
Código, de Laboratorios, Científica,  
Animales acuáticos

**Comisiones Regionales**  
África, Américas, Asia-Extremo Oriente,  
Europa, Medio Oriente

**Oficina Central**

**Centros  
Colaboradores**  
  
**Laboratorios  
de Referencia**

Departamento  
Administrativo  
y Financiero

Departamento  
de Información  
Sanitaria

Departamento  
de Comercio  
Internacional

Departamento  
Científico  
y Técnico

Departamento  
de Actividades  
Regionales

Departamento  
de Publicaciones

**Grupos Ad hoc**

**Grupos de  
trabajo**

**Representaciones Regionales**

## *The International Committee*

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- *the highest authority of the OIE*
- *comprises all the Delegates*
- *meets at least once a year*
- *voting by Delegates respects the democratic principle of  
'one country, one vote'.*
- *elects the members of the governing bodies of the OIE*
- *appoints the Director General for a 5-year mandate*

# *The Delegate*



- *He is usually the Chief Veterinary Officer of his country*
  - *Member of the International Committee (General Session)*
  - *In permanent contact with the OIE*
  - *Should inform the OIE of the animal disease situation of his country*

- ✓ Ensure that the legislation in force in his country is based on OIE standards and if necessary, on a scientific risk analysis
- ✓ VOTE IN GENERAL SESSION
- ✓ Focal point of the OIE = national specialist focal point (aquatic animal diseases, wildlife, sanitary information systems, veterinary medicinal products)

# *The Administrative Commission*



- Composition:

- *the President,*
- *the Vice-President,*
- *the Past President,*
- *6 Delegates,*
- *elected for a 3-year term (with the exception of the former President)*

- Role:

- *represents the Committee during the interval between General Sessions*
- examines technical and administrative matters and, in particular, the working programme and the proposed budget to be presented to the International Committee.

Meets twice a year in Paris

## *Specialist Commissions*

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission  
«Code Commission»

Biological Standards Commission –  
"Laboratories Commission"

Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases  
"Scientific Commission"

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission  
"Aquatic Animals Commission"

# Comisiones Regionales

## *Regional Commission*

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### *5 Regional Commissions:*

- Africa*
- Americas*
- Asia, Far East and Oceania*
- Europe*
- Middle East*

*Bureau:*

- 1 President: Dr. Jamil Gomez da Souza - Brasil*
- 2 Vice-Presidents Dr. J.A. Valle Molina – Mexico*  
*Dr. Emerio Serrano - Cuba*
- 1 Secretary General: Dr. Victor Gongora - Belize*



# Central Bureau



*The Administrative and Financial Department*

*The Animal Health Information Department*

*The Scientific and Technical Department*

*The Regional Activities Department*

*The International Trade Department*

*The Publications Department*

# Régional Representation

## *Représentations régionales*

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### *5 Regional Representations:*

*Africa (Bamako, Mali)*

*Americas Buenos Aires*

*Panama*

*- Asia, Far East and Oceania  
(Tokio, Japan)*

*- Europe Sofia, Bulgarie)*

*Brucelas*

*- Middle East (Beyrouth, Liban)*

*Regional coordination Unit for the Southeast Asia Foot-and-Mouth Disease Campaign (Bangkok, Thailand)*

*Wildlife Diseases*

*Animal Production Food Safety*

*Animal Welfare*

- Set up, when needed,*
- *with world renowned scientists*
  - *to prepare decisions of the Specialist Commissions and the International Committee*

# *International Relations*

### *Institutional cooperation with:*

<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization
<b>FAO</b>	<i>Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations</i>
<b>WTO</b>	<i>World Trade Organization</i>
<b>CAC</b>	<i>Codex Alimentarius Commission</i>
<b>IPPC</b>	<i>International Plant Protection Convention</i>

# ***OIE Information System***

***Promote transparency in  
and knowledge of  
global animal disease situation***

## *Reports from Member Countries*

- *Reports from worldwide network of OIE Reference Labs.*
- *Active search and tracking of unofficial sources, such as scientific publications and ProMed, and lay publications, with Member Country verification*



# *OIE animal disease notification system*

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*Criteria for inclusion in the OIE list:*

*International spread*

☒ *Significant spread within naive population*

*Zoonotic potential*

☒ *Emerging diseases*

(new infection resulting from the evolution of an existing pathogen or parasite resulting in a change of host range, vector, pathogenicity or strain; or the occurrence of a previously unrecognized infection or disease.)

# ***OIE International Standards***

*How fast are they changing and  
in response to what pressure?*

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*Pressure by exporting countries  
to increase trade*

- *Pressure by importing countries  
to protect themselves (e.g Avian  
influenza)*
- *Ethics and public health  
protection*

- to maximise harmonisation of the health aspects of international trade, Veterinary Administrations should base their health measures on OIE standards
- adopted by OIE Member Countries during General Session each May by consensus (no other pathway for adoption)

# Purpose of the Codes ?

- the Codes are not textbooks on terrestrial or aquatic animal diseases, nor on zoonoses
- they are reference manuals for international standards for safe trade in terrestrial and aquatic animals and their products
- equivalent standards for the protection of **human health** are described in the Codex Alimentarius

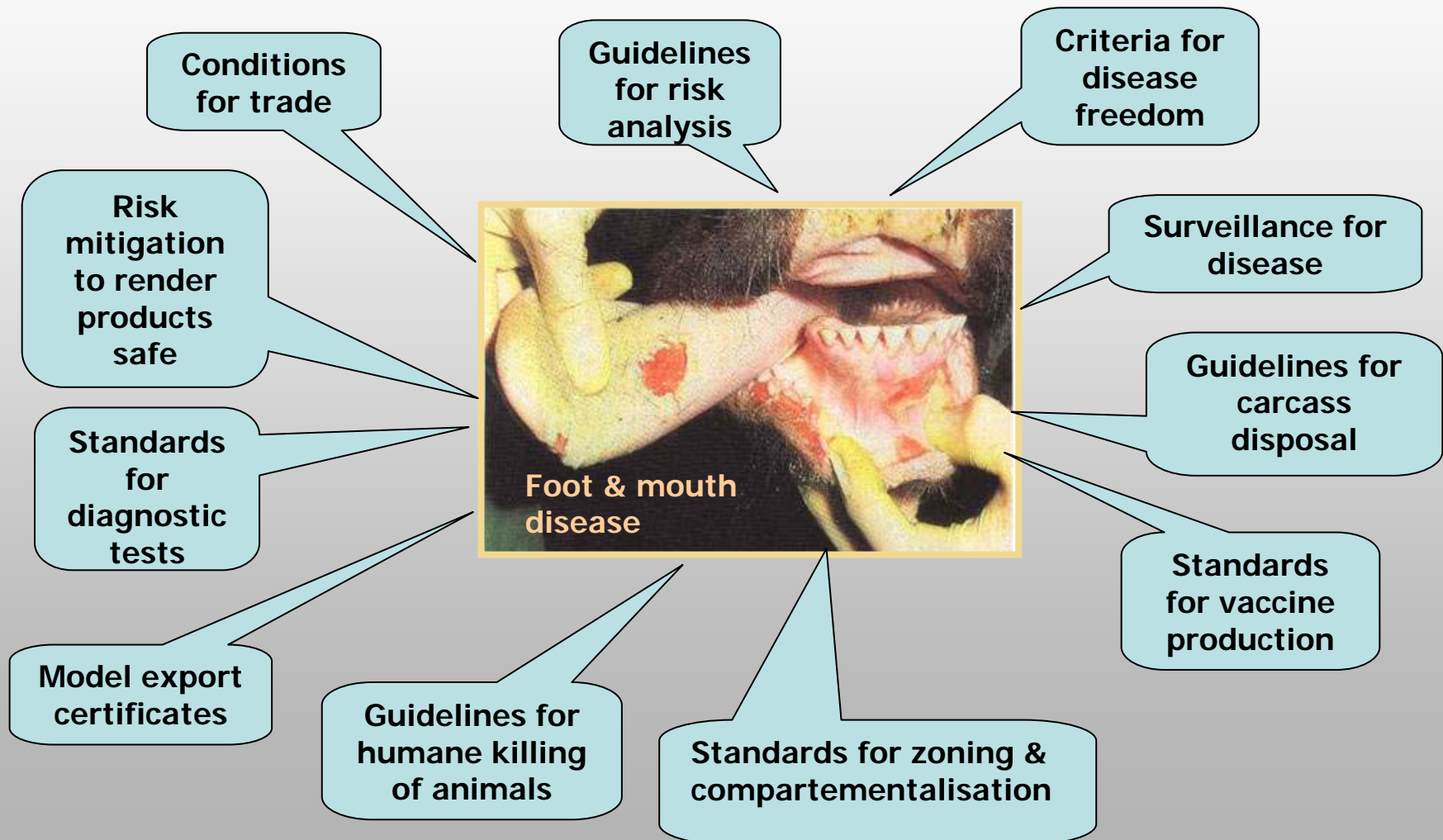
(these should be read in conjunction with relevant requirements in the Codes)

- recommends health measures to be used by veterinary authorities or other competent authorities
  - to establish health regulations for the safe importation of animals and animal products
  - while avoiding unjustified trade restrictions
- now expanding into animal welfare and food safety

# Principles in the *Codes*

- WTO obligations complied with
- scientific basis for recommendations
  - assessment of risk factors
  - evaluation of veterinary services / competent authorities
  - zoning and compartmentalisation
  - epidemiological surveillance
- credible health certification
- importing country assumed to be free of disease or with a control programme

# What information is available from Codes and Manuals ?





# Approach in the *Terrestrial Code*

- generic (horizontal) chapters
  - general definitions
  - obligations and ethics in international trade
  - disease notification
  - import risk analysis methodology
  - evaluation of veterinary services
  - import/export procedures

# Approach in the *Terrestrial Code*

- specific chapters on OIE listed diseases of
  - mammals (eg, FMD, BSE)
  - birds (eg, avian influenza)
  - bees (eg, foulbrood)
- within each chapter, articles on
  - description of pathogen / disease
  - determining status of a country or zone
  - ‘safe’ commodities irrespective of status (if possible)
  - recommendations for ‘unsafe’ commodities

# Approach in the *Terrestrial Code*

- **appendices**
  - **collection and processing of semen**
  - **collection and processing of embryos/ova**
  - **disease surveillance - general and disease specific**
  - **inactivation of pathogens and vectors**
  - **animal welfare**
  - **antimicrobial resistance**
- **model veterinary certificates for**
  - **live animals**
  - **products of animal origin**

## **BSE as an example**

# BSE status of a cattle pop

- the outcome of a risk assessment identifying all potential factors for BSE occurrence and their historic perspective:
  - **release assessment - likelihood that a TSE agent has been introduced into the cattle pop**
  - **surveillance and other epidemiological investigations**
  - **exposure assessment if the release assessment identifies a risk factor**

# BSE status of a cattle pop (contd)



- on-going awareness programme for vets, farmers
- compulsory notification and investigation of all cattle showing clinical signs consistent with BSE

## *Code* - BSE status

- negligible BSE risk
- controlled BSE risk
- undetermined BSE risk

# Article for “safe commodities”



- When authorising import or transit of the following commodities, Veterinary Administrations should not require any BSE related conditions, regardless of the BSE status of the exporting country:
- *milk* and *milk products*;
- semen and *in vivo* derived cattle embryos;
- hides and skins;
- gelatin and collagen prepared exclusively from hides and skins;
- protein-free tallow (max of insoluble impurities of 0.15% in weight) and derivatives;
- dicalcium phosphate (with no trace of protein and fat);
- deboned skeletal muscle *meat* (excluding mechanically separated meat)
- blood and blood by-products



# For other Commodities



- When authorising import or transit of other commodities listed in this chapter, *Veterinary Administrations* should require the conditions prescribed in this Chapter relevant to the BSE risk status of the cattle population of the exporting country and *zone*....

# *Aquatic Code*

- recommends health measures to be used by competent authorities
  - to establish health regulations for the safe importation of aquatic animals and their products
  - while avoiding unjustified trade restrictions
- principles as per *Terrestrial Code*

# *Evolution of OIE standards*



- harmonisation between *Terrestrial* and *Aquatic Codes*
  - and with Codex and IPPC standards to extent possible
- regular updating of chapters based on latest scientific information
- re-emphasis from disease status to risk-based measures for commodities
- importance of disease surveillance and timely notification
- interactive publications
- **Country – Zone – Commodities – Compartment**

# OIE Manuals

## biological standards

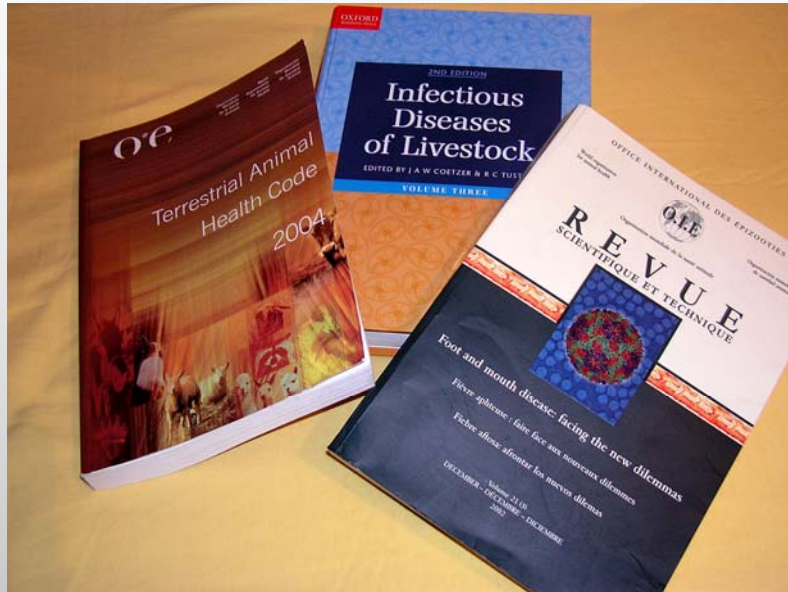
- OIE harmonises diagnostic testing and vaccination procedures through use of
  - **standard methods – OIE *Manuals***
  - **Reference Laboratories / Collaborating Centres**
  - **International Reference Sera**
  - **quality assurance guidelines**
- supports laboratories in Member Countries  
→ reliable results
- coordinated by BSC and AAHSC

- describe internationally agreed laboratory methods for disease diagnosis
  - **to enable the requirements for health certification in connection with trade to be met**
- *Terrestrial Manual* also covers the production and control of biological products eg vaccines
- tests in the *Manuals* should be performed according to the methods described in order to avoid differences in interpretation of results

# *Terrestrial Manual*

- provides general information for veterinary officials on each disease, with tests and vaccines
  - introduction to the subjects
  - should be regarded as background information rather than standards
- provides detailed techniques for laboratory technicians
  - standards

# Using the Codes and Manuals



- use the Codes to establish health requirements for trade
- use the OIE Scientific and Technical Review and other sources to obtain background information
- use the OIE Manuals to ensure the application of correct diagnostic tests and vaccines
- use textbooks on diseases to understand the scientific justification for OIE standards

# Summary: Critical aspects in using the Codes and Manuals

- do not use the Codes as a textbook on diseases
- use it as an international standard to evaluate measures to **protect animal and aquatic health** in the trade of animals and animal products
- ensure that the application of the standards of the Codes for national health measures are in accordance with obligations under the SPS Agreement



# Summary: Critical aspects in using the Codes and Manuals

- use the Guidelines for the Evaluation of Veterinary Services as an essential baseline for risk assessment
- use the Codes to establish baseline arguments to establish equivalence for trade negotiations
- use the Codes to establish cost-effective risk mitigation measures for trade
- use the Codes and Manuals to challenge scientific unjustifiable sanitary measures of importing countries

# Updating OIE standards



***Reference Laboratories  
Collaborating Centres***

- *155 Reference Laboratories*
- *in 30 Countries*
- *covering 80 diseases or topics*

- *Expert centres for worldwide standardization*
  - Store and distribute reference reagents*
- ☒ *Conduct and validate diagnostic tests*
- ☒ *Coordinate technical and scientific studies*
- ☒ *Provide technical and scientific training*
- ☒ *Organise laboratory proficiency testing*

# ***Collaborating Centres (1)***

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***15 Collaborating Centres  
in 9 Countries***

## *Collaborating Centres (2)*

- *Expert centres on horizontal subjects,  
for the OIE and Member Countries*
  - ☒ *Assist in the elaboration of procedures  
for the harmonization of international  
standards*
  - ☒ *Coordinate activities on cooperation*
  - ☒ *Provide technical training*
  - ☒ *Organize and host scientific meetings  
for the OIE*

# ***OIE Publications & Web Site***



# Publications of the OIE

*Publications de l'OIE*



*Bulletin*

*every 3 months*

*Scientific and Technical Review*

*every 4 months*

*World Animal Health*

*every year*

*Technical items, Newsletters, Specialised books*

*variable*

<http://www.oie.int>

- *Early warning*
- *Weekly Disease Information*
- *WAID*
- *Animal Health Country Status*
- *International Standards (Codes, Manuals, etc.)*
- *Scientific and Technical Review (contents and abstracts)*
- *Scientific and general information on OIE activities*
- *Animal diseases and zoonoses*
- *Editorials from the Director General*



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